

CLAIM LISTING

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus configured to pleasingly display a flowing liquid, said apparatus comprising:

a reservoir for accommodating a volume of liquid;

a plenum mounted above said reservoir configured to accumulate a liquid pool;

a pump operable in a pump-on mode to pump liquid upwardly from said reservoir to form said liquid pool in said plenum;

a visibly open flow pathway sloping downwardly from beneath said plenum and configured to receive liquid from a plenum overflow for return to said reservoir;

a--detector means for providing a first signal when the liquid level in said reservoir is less than a predetermined first height mark and for providing a second signal when the liquid level in said reservoir is greater than a predetermined second height mark, where said second height mark is greater than said first height mark; and

a controller means responsive to said first and second signals for setting a pump-off mode in response to said liquid level being less than first height mark and for preventing setting of said pump-on mode unless said liquid level is greater than said second height mark.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said reservoir includes at least one peripheral window for viewing the reservoir liquid level from outside said reservoir.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said liquid flow pathway includes a ramp portion adapted to support a substantially smooth sheet liquid flow.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said ramp portion includes spaced lateral ridges for creating ripples in said sheet liquid flow.

1 5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said flow pathway includes a
2 substantially convex surface portion adapted to support a substantially smooth sheet liquid
3 flow.

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5 6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said flow pathway includes a
6 substantially concave surface portion adapted to support a substantially smooth sheet liquid
7 flow.

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9 7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said detector means
10 includes a first switch mounted proximate to said first height mark and a second switch
11 mounted proximate to said second height mark.

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13 8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said detector means
14 further includes at least one switch actuator configured to float proximate to the liquid level in
15 said reservoir.

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17 9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said controller means is
18 responsive to said first and second switches to define said pump-off mode when said liquid
19 falls below said first height mark and to subsequently define said pump-on mode only after
20 said level rises above said second height mark.

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22 10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said switch actuator comprises a
23 magnet.

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25 11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein at least one of said switches is
26 responsive to a magnetic field proximate thereto.

1 12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a housing having wall
2 portions substantially converging upwardly above said reservoir.

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4 13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said housing wall portions are
5 substantially planar and define interior and exterior surfaces; and wherein
6 said reservoir and said wall portion interior surfaces are sealed to prevent liquid
7 leakage therebetween.

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9 14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 further including at least one decorative
10 panel mounted on a wall portion exterior surface.

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12 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said liquid flow pathway includes a
13 light transmissive portion.

14 16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising at least one light source for
15 illuminating said liquid flow through said light transmissive portion.

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17 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said at least one light source includes
18 a light emitting diode (LED) mounted in said reservoir and sealed in a waterproof housing.

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20 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising a plurality of light sources
21 adapted to illuminate said liquid flow in a variety of colors through said light transmissive
22 portion.

23 19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further including at least one light
24 source energizable to illuminate said liquid flow pathway; and
25 a controller means for variably energizing said light source to simulate a flame
26 flicker.

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1 20.(Currently Amended) An apparatus configured to pleasingly display a flowing
2 liquid, said apparatus comprising:

3 a reservoir for accommodating a volume of liquid;
4 a visually open flow pathway having an upstream end and sloping downwardly
5 to a downstream end proximate to said reservoir;
6 a pump operable to pump liquid upwardly from said reservoir to said upstream
7 end;
8 a-detector means for detecting the liquid level in said reservoir; and
9 a-controller means responsive to said detector means for switching said pump
10 off in response to the liquid level in said reservoir falling below a first height mark and for
11 preventing resumption of pump operation unless the liquid level in said reservoir rises above
12 a second height mark greater than first height mark.

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14 21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said reservoir includes at least one
15 peripheral window for viewing the reservoir liquid level from outside said reservoir.

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17 22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said controller-detector
18 means includes first and second level detectors respectively mounted adjacent to said first
19 and second height marks.

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21 23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 further including an actuator configured to
22 float proximate to the surface of the liquid in said reservoir; and wherein
23 each of said first and second detectors is responsive to the proximity of said
24 actuator.

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26 24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said actuator comprises a magnet
27 and each of said first and second detectors comprises a reed switch.

1 25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 further including at least one substantially
2 vertically oriented guide member mounted in said reservoir;

3 a substantially toroidal float mounted for vertical movement along said guide
4 member; and wherein

5 said actuator is mounted on said float.

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7 26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said actuator comprises a magnet
8 and each of said first and second detectors comprises a reed switch.

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10 27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said guide member comprises at least
11 one tubular member; and wherein

12 at least one of said reed switches is mounted in said tubular member.

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1 28.(Currently Amended) An apparatus configured to pleasingly display a flowing
2 liquid, said apparatus comprising:

3 a liquid reservoir;

4 a pump coupled to said reservoir for pumping liquid upstream to a plenum
5 configured to form a substantially still liquid pool, said substantially still liquid pool adapted to
6 overflow onto an upstream end of a visually open flow pathway configured to return said
7 liquid overflow to said reservoir; and

8 a-detector means for detecting the liquid level in said reservoir; and

9 a-controller means responsive to said detector means for switching said pump
10 off in response to the liquid level in said reservoir falling below a first height mark and for
11 preventing resumption of pump operation unless the liquid level in said reservoir rises above
12 a second height mark greater than first height mark.

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14 29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein said reservoir includes at least
15 one peripheral window for viewing the reservoir liquid level from outside said reservoir.

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17 30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein said flow pathway includes a ramp
18 portion adapted to support a substantially smooth sheet liquid flow.

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20 31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein said ramp portion includes spaced
21 lateral ridges for creating ripples in said liquid sheet flow.

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23 32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein said flow pathway includes a
24 substantially convex surface portion and a concave surface portion adapted to support a
25 substantially smooth sheet liquid flow.

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